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What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A tinting composition for tinting a surface comprising: a solvent in the amount from about 55 to about 99 wt %; a film forming polymer in the amount from about 1 to about 50 wt %; pigment in the amount from about 0.001 to about 50 wt %, and optionally other additives such as rheology modifiers, thickeners, ultraviolet additives, corrosion inhibitors, emulsifiers and
10 mixtures thereof, wherein said film forming polymer is characterized by its ability to form a waterproof film while capable of being selectively removed after drying without etching the underlying substrate by dissolving in an appropriate polar solvent or solubilizing with an additive in polar solvent promoting solubilization of said film forming polymer by forming a salt with
15 said polymer .
2. The tinting composition of claim 1, wherein at least one of the film forming polymers comprises from about 5 to about 40 weight percent of repeating units from methyl methacrylate, from about 20 to about 85 weight
20 percent of repeating units from ethyl acrylate, from about 5 to about 40 weight percent of repeating units from styrene, and from about 5 to about 35 weight percent of repeating units from methacrylic acid.
3. The tinting composition of claim 1, wherein the film forming
25 polymer is soluble to the extent of 1 gram per 100 grams of isopropanol at 25 C or to the extent of 1 gram per 100 grams of a 3 wt.% ammonia water at 25 C.
4. The tinting composition of claim 1, wherein the surface is a polymeric substrate.
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5. The tinting composition of claim 4, wherein the polymeric substrate is selected from the group consisting of rubber, engineered plastic, and vinyl.
- 35 6. The tinting composition of claim 4, wherein the polymeric substrate is selected from the group consisting of the surface of a tire, dashboard, bumper, steering wheel, mud-flap, and seat.

7. The tinting composition of claim 4, wherein the polymeric substrate is selected from the group consisting of the surface of a bicycle helmet, motorcycle helmet and ski boots.

5 8. The tinting composition of claim 1, wherein the surface is selected from the group consisting of metal, glass, fiberglass, plastic, and paint.

9. The tinting composition of claim 1, wherein the solvent consists essentially of water and/or organic solvent(s) at least 80wt.% of said solvent(s) being characterized by an individual solubility of at least 10 g/100 g of water at 25°C and a blend of all non-water solvents in said solvent(s) having a solubility of less than 10g/ 100 g of mineral oil at 25°C.

10 10. The tinting composition of claim 9 wherein the solvent comprises isopropyl alcohol as at least 25 weight percent of the total solvent.

11. The tinting composition of claim 1, wherein the pigment is an inorganic constituent containing pigment.

20 12. The tinting composition of claim 1, wherein the pigment is selected from the group consisting of aluminum coated with magnesium fluoride and chromium.

25 13. The tinting composition of claim 1, further comprising an emulsifier.

14. The tinting composition of claim 13, wherein the emulsifier comprises from about 0.001 to about 20 wt. % of the tinting composition.

30 15. The tinting composition of claim 1, further comprising an additive to reduce deleterious effects of ultraviolet light on the coating.

35 16. The tinting composition of claim 1, wherein the pigment comprises from about 0.1 to about 50 wt. % of the tinting composition.

17. The tinting composition of claim 1, wherein the pigment is selected from the group consisting of mica coated with titanium dioxide and mica coated with iron oxide.

5 18. A tinting composition for tinting a surface comprising: water or organic solvent(s) or blends thereof, at least 80 wt.% of said solvent(s) having solubility of at least 10 g/100 g of water at 25°C and said solvent(s) as a blend having solubility less than 10g/ 100 g of mineral oil at 25°C; an acrylate ester/acrylate salt/styrene terpolymer; pigment; and optionally other additives
10 such as rheology modifiers, thickeners, ultraviolet additives, corrosion inhibitors, emulsifiers and mixtures thereof.

19. The tinting composition of claim 18, wherein the surface comprises a polymeric substrate or polymeric coated substrate.

15 20. The tinting composition of claim 19, wherein the polymeric substrate or polymeric coated substrate is selected from the group consisting of rubber, engineered plastic, and vinyl.

20 21. The tinting composition of claim 19, wherein the surface is selected from the group consisting of the surface of a tire, dashboard, bumper, steering wheel, mudflap, and seat.

22. The tinting composition of claim 18, wherein the surface is
25 selected from the group consisting of metal, glass, fiberglass, painted substrate, and plastic.

23. The tinting composition of claim 18, wherein the solvent is a mixture of water and organic solvents.

30 24. A method of tinting a surface comprising: selecting a surface for tinting; mixing a solvent in the amount from about 75 to about 99.9 wt %, a film forming polymer in the amount from about 3 to about 25 wt %, and pigment in the amount from about 0. 1 to about 15 wt %; and optionally other
35 additives such as rheology modifiers, thickeners, additives reducing the effects of ultraviolet radiation; corrosion inhibitors, emulsifiers and mixtures thereof to form a tinting composition; and applying the tinting composition to the surface

the improvement wherein said film forming polymer is soluble or dispersible in polar solvents that do not appreciably swell or etch a polymeric substrate and said film forming polymer dries to a water resistant coating that can be removed with a slightly basic polar solvent or solvent blend that does not swell or etch a polymeric substrate upon removal of the coating.

25. The method of claim 24, including a step of removing said water resistant coating with a solvent blend that dissolves the film forming polymer or with a slightly basic polar solvent and option some mechanical action that doesn't etch said polymeric substrate.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein the step of applying is accomplished by spraying the tinting composition onto the surface.

27. The method of claim 24, wherein the step of applying is accomplished by one of the steps selected the group consisting of sponging, dabbing, brushing and wiping the tinting composition onto the surface.

28. The method of claim 24, wherein the surface is a polymeric substrate.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the polymeric substrate is selected from the group consisting of rubber, rigid plastic, and flexible vinyl.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein the polymeric substrate is selected from the group consisting of the surface of a tire, dashboard, bumper, steering wheel, mud-flap, and seat.

31. The method of claim 24, wherein the surface is selected from the group consisting of metal, glass, fiberglass, painted surface, and plastic.

32. The method of claim 24, wherein the solvent comprises from about 50 to about 99.9 wt. % and pigment comprises from about 0.1 to about 50 wt. % of the tinting composition.

33. A fast-drying, water-proof composition for applying as a dressing, polish, tint, or protective layer to tires; other rubber, vinyl or leather surfaces;

- or hard surfaces on vehicles comprising: solvent in the amount from about 55 to about 90 weight per cent; a water-proof film-forming polymer in the amount from about 1 to about 50 weight percent based on the composition weight and optionally glycerin in the amount from about 0.5 to about 15 weight per cent;
- 5 surfactant in the amount from about 1 to about 25 weight per cent; and silicone fluid in the amount from about 10 to about 40 weight per cent.